
Introduced by Senator Lowenthal

July 9, 2009

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52—Relative to the Iranian persecution of the Baha’i.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 52, as introduced, Lowenthal. Iranian persecution: Baha’i.

This measure would condemn the government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of Baha’is, call on the government of Iran to immediately cease activities aimed at the repression of the Iranian Baha’i community, and hold the government of Iran responsible for upholding all the rights of its nationals, including members of the Baha’i community.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On March 20, 2006, the United Nations Special
2 Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Asma Jahangir,
3 revealed the existence of a confidential letter dated October 29,
4 2005, from the chairman of the command headquarters of Iran’s
5 Armed Forces to the Ministry of Information, the Revolutionary
6 Guard, and the police force, stating the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah
7 Khamenei, instructed the command headquarters to identify
8 members of the Baha’i faith in Iran and monitor their activities;
9 and
10 WHEREAS, The United Nations Special Rapporteur expressed
11 “grave concern and apprehension” about the implications of this
12 letter for the safety of the Baha’i community; and

1 WHEREAS, In May 2006, 54 Baha'is were arrested in Shiraz
2 and held for several days without trial in the largest roundup of
3 Baha'is since the 1980s; and

4 WHEREAS, In August 2006, the Iranian Ministry of the Interior
5 ordered provincial officials to "cautiously and carefully monitor
6 and manage" all Baha'i social activities; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2006, the Central Security Office of Iran's
8 Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology ordered 81 Iranian
9 universities to expel any student discovered to be a Baha'i; and

10 WHEREAS, In November 2006, a letter issued by Payame Noor
11 University stated that it is Iranian policy to prevent Baha'is from
12 enrolling in universities and to expel Baha'is upon discovery; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2007, more than two-thirds of the Baha'is
14 enrolled in universities were expelled upon identification as a
15 Baha'i; and

16 WHEREAS, In February of 2007, police in Tehran and
17 surrounding towns entered Baha'i homes and businesses to collect
18 details on family members; and

19 WHEREAS, In April of 2007, the Iranian Public Intelligence
20 and Security Force ordered 25 industries to deny business licenses
21 to Baha'is; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2006 and 2007, the Iranian Ministry of
23 Information pressured employers to fire Baha'i employees and
24 instructed banks to refuse to provide loans to Baha'i-owned
25 businesses; and

26 WHEREAS, In July of 2007, a Baha'i cemetery was destroyed
27 by earthmoving equipment in Yazd, and in September 2007, a
28 Baha'i cemetery was bulldozed outside of Najafabad, erasing the
29 memory of those Iranian citizens; and

30 WHEREAS, The Government of Iran is party to the International
31 Covenants on Human Rights; and

32 WHEREAS, In December 2007, the Iranian Parliament
33 published a draft Islamic Penal Code, which violates Iran's
34 commitment under the International Covenants on Human Rights
35 by requiring the death penalty for "apostates," a term applied to
36 Baha'is and any convert from Islam; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved, by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
38 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature condemns the government
39 of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of Baha'is, calls on the
40 government of Iran to immediately cease activities aimed at the

1 repression of the Iranian Baha'i community, and continues to hold
2 the government of Iran responsible for upholding all the rights of
3 its nationals, including members of the Baha'i community; and be
4 it further
5 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
6 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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